

## Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 DOTE-00 SIL-01 LAB-06

FMC-04 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 /076 W

----- 045221

R 111350Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1708

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS DURBAN 0136

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, SF

SUBJECT: NEW DURBAN PORT SURCHARGES

REF: DURBAN 31, DURBAN A-26

1. SOUTH AFRICA/EUROPE CONFERENCE LINES ANNOUNCED IN LONDON APRIL 10 THEY WILL INCREASE DURBAN PORT DETENTION SURCHARGE FROM TEN TO TWENTY PER CENT EFFECTIVE APRIL 15. INCREASE WILL APPLY ONLY TO IMPORT CARGO; EXPORT CONGESTION SURCHARGE TO REMAIN AT 10 PER CENT.

2. CONFERENCE SAID ACTION TAKEN BY SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAYS IN DURBAN TO END DELAYS IS STILL UNSATISFACTORY WITH LITTLE PROSPECT FOR IMPROVEMENT IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

3. A RAILWAY SPOKESMAN TOLD PRESS DURBAN HAS BEEN OVERWHELMED BY VOLUME OF CARGO DURING PAST THREE MONTHS. ADDED PRESSURE WOULD BECOME EVEN GREATER WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS. THERE IS PRESENTLY BACKLOG OF 20 SHIPS AWAITING BERTHS WITH DELAYS RANGING UP TO EIGHT DAYS.

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RM RAILWAY SPOKESMAN GAVE USUAL REASONS FOR DELAYS; INCREASED IMPORTS, POOR WEATHER LACK OF TRUCKS. ALSO SAID LABOR SHORTAGE MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR PORT ADOPT FULL NIGHT-SHIFT WORK. MORE NON-WHITES HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED TO DRIVE FORK LIFTS AND CRANES, AND INDIANS ARE BEING EMPLOYED AS CHECKERS, BUT, HE SAID, IT IMPOSSIBLE FURTHER INCREASE NUMBER OF GANGS WORKING NIGHT-SHIFT WITHOUT DRAWING FROM DAY-SHIFTS. SAR & H, HE SAID, HAD MADE AS MANY EMPLOYMENT CONCESSIONS AS POSSIBLE UNDER EXISTING AGREEMENTS WITH WHITE LABOR UNIONS.

5. COMMENT: CONGEN BELIEVES THIS IS FIRST TIME SAR & H SPOKESMAN HAS ADMITTED LABOR SHORTAGES DUE TO UNDER-UTILIZATION OF NON-WHITE WORKERS IS BASIC CAUSE OF PORT DELAYS. LOCAL CHAMBERS COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER SURCHARGE INCREASES, BUT IT UNLIKELY THEIR CONCERN CAN BE TRANSLATED INTO IMMEDIATE INCREASED USE SKILLED NON-WHITE WORKERS IN NUMBERS NEEDED TO OVERCOME DELAYS.  
HOLMES

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DETENTION, MARINE TRANSPORTATION, IMPORTS, PORT FACILITIES, PORT CHARGES, PRICE TRENDS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 APR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Reference:** DURBAN 31, DURBAN A-26  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** WorrelSW  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 JUN 2002 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <18 DEC 2002 by WorrelSW>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW DURBAN PORT SURCHARGES  
**TAGS:** ETRN, SF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005